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IOWA LIBRARY QUARTERLY

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IOWA LIBRARY COMMISSION

OBJECT: *To aid in the establishment and development of free and other public libraries in the State of Iowa.*

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This quarterly is mailed *free* to all public libraries, and to trustees of free public libraries in the state of Iowa.

Rural Reading and Township Extension

Rural extension of library privileges is the next step in the further broadening of the scope and work of the public libraries in Iowa. The subject was discussed at the State meeting of the Iowa Library Association last fall, and the papers presented there are to be found elsewhere in this number. Under the provisions of the Iowa law which authorizes township extension of library privileges, the **April meeting** of the township trustees is designated as the time when the tax for this purpose shall be levied. This means that those who are interested in having this work begun by the local library this spring must at once learn what townships are likely to undertake it and what the action is likely to be on the part of the township trustees at their April meeting.

A library must ally itself with every forward movement in the town in which it exists; whether related to the social, ethical or economic welfare of the community. Not only that, but the library must often lead in such matters and stimulate the citizens to undertake such movements. If we really believe in the mission of good books in stimulating citizens to higher thinking and better living, we cannot consider the artificial boundaries of the municipality as the limit to library endeavor. To extend the field of the library's usefulness into the country adjacent to the town seems the only logical thing for the public libraries in an agricultural state such as Iowa. It was to meet this need that the law was enacted, providing for the township extension of public library privileges, by means of which the township trustees may contract with the library board of the public library in the nearest town or city, for the use of the books from that library by the residents of the township, on the same terms and conditions for individual readers as for those living in the town, and the law authorizes the library trustees to loan the books under this arrangement, either singly or in groups. This means that a collection of books may be sent, into the immediate neighborhood, country church, or country school, which shall constitute a library distributing station; or to the smaller towns in the township where branch libraries may be established, with a reading room and such other provisions as the residents of

the towns shall make possible by co-operation with the library board.

The chief problem in rural library extension is, how may a desire be awakened or stimulated in the country dwellers themselves for the helpful and inspiring aid in right living which good reading affords? The spontaneous and local co-operation of a rural community in securing good books for neighborhood use under the provisions of this law, is very necessary. There will always be one or two in the township who may be termed leaders, who are interested in educational matters such as this, and by securing their support and co-operation a petition can be circulated for signatures in the township and presented to the township trustees, so that in case they are half hearted in the matter they can be assured that the taxpayers in the township really wish them to take advantage of the provisions of this law. By reading in this issue of the experiences in Clarinda, Onawa and Tipton where this work has been tested during the past two years, suggestions may be gained as to how the work may be undertaken and the possibilities of developing it by personal work with township trustees and other residents of the township.

The logical development of library work is through extension. It means that books must be made easily accessible and as nearly as possible be taken to those who are remote from the library centers. The time has passed when a library can be considered to be doing effective work when it simply exists as an institution for the accumulation of books which an individual may or may not use, depending upon his own eager desire for books and his willingness to make an effort to secure them.

Library trustees should bear in mind that first of all this is an altruistic work, in which, without lessening the value of the library to the town or city, the books may be of additional service to those who live in the country and the library may become a blessing to a much larger number of people than it otherwise would. While on the other hand there is a distinct benefit to the library in securing the co-operation of the township trustees, because the tax levy resulting therefrom, which is paid into the library board, makes it possible to have additional funds for increasing the collection of books and for the employment of additional library workers, so that a more aggressive policy of extension on the part of the library may be possible in both town and country.

Library Extension at Clarinda

BY MRS. ALFRED LORENZ, TRUSTEE, CLARINDA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

There has been no more interesting or vital question before the American people since the great and still unsolved problem of the double monetary standard and the 16 to one issue, than the all-absorbing one of reciprocity with Canada. Every conceivable and some inconceivable arguments have been brought forth pro and con, in every village, hamlet and town, by the "rich man, poor man, beggarman, thief, doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief," and farmer, throughout our broad land. We have looked at this question from every imaginable standpoint, each of us forming his opinion of it, and its outcome, according to his environment, training, education, occupation and interests. Some of us living in an agricultural community feared that free trade with our northern neighbor would lower the price of the food products, we wish to sell. Therefore we were opposed to the measure. Others of us thought it would lessen the price of the food products we wanted to buy, therefore we were in favor of reciprocity. Now if we could or would, take into consideration the fact that, after all the proper settlement of any difference may not and usually does not depend solely upon the interests of any one individual or district, but upon the

good and advantage to the greatest number of individuals in our vast country; if, in short, I could but see the situation from your viewpoint, and you conceive of it from mine, both of us would arrive at a very much safer and saner and broader conclusion in most of our opinions and problems that concern the public and the nation's welfare.

The clever and successful politician is the one who never loses sight of this fundamental principle of human nature,—not during his campaign, at any rate. And the man I would be most likely to support is the one who comes to me with a sympathetic interest in what I am doing, where I am living, and how I am thinking. And indeed is this not justly true and right? Should we not all of us take a real and vital interest in our neighbor and his life and concerns? So I deem it necessary and wisely essential to apply this principle of reciprocity in its original significance of altruistic consideration of humanity and its rights, and the laws which underlie the best and truest in our national politics, to any institution or system or movement which depends upon the people's approval for its inception and continuance. Therefore, why should we hesitate to approach this question of rural extension of library privileges, which we agree is one of the broadest and most vital of edudational problems, in the same spirit of reciprocal good?

Of course I anticipate the objections that may legitimately be offered to this suggestion. And your admonition, "keep politics out of the libraries," is indeed good advice,—but is it possible? It seems a sort of inevitable sequence that cannot be ignored, that politics recur in any measure that concerns public life, with as alarming frequency as the reiterated phrase, "This is the house that Jack built,"—does in rhythmical lines we used to con in our childhood days. "This is the tax that the people voted, this is the library that was built from the tax that the people voted, these are the trustees that manage the library that was built from the tax that the people voted!" So, after all, the vote of the people plays a very important part in the library question and it is the vote of the people that must be considered, and before we realize it, we are "in politics." Seemingly it cannot be avoided. Politics is all around us, in the thoughts we think the things we do, the very air we breathe. So let us see if the situation cannot be met in the very best sort of political way, for politics in its highest and best sense is, after all, only an intelligent and sympathetic understanding of human life and its needs.

A heavy responsibility rests upon the library trustee. Upon him devolves the necessity of being so economical in the disbursement of the moneys entrusted to his care, so wise in the choice of officials who shall preside over the administration of the library and so zealous in his devotion to the library cause, that some enthusiasts think that nothing short of death itself should keep him from his divine calling and the regular monthly board meeting! Indeed as trustees of the small library, at least, we do take ourselves and our mission very seriously. We would falter and grow faint at heart over the mistakes we make, the difficulties we encounter, and the problems that confront us almost daily in the struggle to place our libraries on a sure and independent footing, in our communities, were not our responsibilities so compelling. Those of you who have launched a human soul upon the sea of existence, tended it devotedly and lovingly through its infancy and childhood, trained, guided, and directed it in its early youth, will sympathize with and understand us in our maternal solicitude, and share with us our fond hopes, ambitions and determination that our child, the library, shall grow into a sober, respectable, revered and indispensable member of society.

Perhaps a brief recital of personal experience and an account of our efforts and results at Clarinda, in the extension work, will not be out of place and the good taste of burdening you with what we have done in our home town, will pass unquestioned. For after all, theories no matter how brilliantly conceived, are not justified in their existence until they have been subjected to the crucial test of practical application and are productive of efficient results. After we had built in our town of 4,500 inhabitants our $15,000 library building (and candor compels me to add that we did not do this alone and unaided,—indeed that well known and justly loved philanthropist, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, gave us very substantial inspiration in our undertaking) we soon discovered that our $1,500 income would not be sufficient to enable us to carry out as we wished the amplification of our plans for our library to be in reality, an educational factor of some importance in our town and surrounding country. So when our legislature made possible the contracting with neighboring townships, for a revenue in return for the privileges of our library, we welcomed this opportunity as a possible and very probable solution of the financial outlook of our library. And may I say, with justifiable pride, that in the two years of our previous struggle when we were a library association before our tax was voted, we had been absolutely a free public library; that is, we had permitted our country readers the free use of the books and had granted them more liberty in extension of time limit than we had given our town people.

Having been the instigators, as it were, of the reciprocity idea, we felt fully justified in going to our township trustees to ask their help. We planned to procure, beside our own home township, three others lying close to us and here is where we appreciated the members of our library board who had a decided inclination to acknowledge and recognize the influence and power of politics in any undertaking of this sort. And we were especially fortunate in having six members on our board who have the privilege of exercising the exclusively, manly prerogative of casting an unchallenged ballot on all and every question, and whose arguments, therefore, in favor of township extension would have more weight with the rural trustees than those of the three remaining members, whose sex denies them this influence; so to the "male constituency" of our board belongs the credit of the gratifying results we obtained. Women and club women especially, are so lauded for the rapid growth and development of the library idea throughout our state that I am glad to acknowledge our gratitude in this instance to those who deservedly earned it—to the men, without whose aid and efforts we could not have won the success that has been ours. The plans for bringing about township extension were as carefully and as cautiously made, with as close attention to what would be the best and wisest policy in bringing this to each township, as is done in a well directed and ultimately successful campaign. Certain men had more influence in some localities, others in others, and to each, according to these conditions and situations was assigned the part he could best do in procuring this tax. The committees appointed to carry on this work were not confined to members of the board solely, but the aid and influence of other citizens was asked and obtained.

The result was, that these four townships voted a levy of ½ mill, which netted us an increase in our annual income of about $600, which gave us that sum above our expenses to be invested in books, without which, assuredly no library can grow. In three of the townships we placed the books in a small town and later we obtained a ½ mill tax from two of these villages in addition to the township revenue. However, after once securing this tax the

work has just begun, for it must be done over again each successive year because the contract is not binding longer than that period, as the law now stands. This situation with all its perplexing complications, reminds me of the position in which a young teacher found herself in attempting to make a practical application of the instruction her principal gave her, in regard to the methods to be used in extracting the desired information from her pupils. The principal said to her, "Never ask leading questions when examinng your pupils; do not hint at the answers. Make the pupils find them unassisted." This is the way in which she obeyed her instruction in the Greek History class: "Willie, who dragged whom around the walls of what, how many times?" That is just the question in a slightly varied form we trustees of Clarinda have asked ourselves frequently in regard to this extension work. For I will confess that while we feel confident that the township extension plan is the only one for the growth, development and maintenance of a public library in the smaller towns, until we are upon a firmer foundation in regard to the permanency of our contracts with the township trustees, we are compelled to ask ourselves this important question at each board meeting prior to the township meeting, when the tax is levied, "who is going to drag what trustees around those same old arguments how many times more." We do not always find the same township trustees nor the same trustees of the same mind from year to year. I fully appreciate the efforts the Library commission and especially the secretary made at the last legislative session to have the law regarding the township contracts materially strengthened so that this harassing ordeal of securing these contracts need not be gone through with each year. Until the law is amended to provide for continuity of income, our chances for securing the co-operation of township trustees must depend upon our making the rural districts feel that the stations and the privilege to use our books is absolutely indispensable to them and their children.

Perhaps it is better that we began in this way, for in this very effort we must now make we lose sight of the income our libraries hope to derive from this source and think more of the real altruistic principle underlying the plan and purpose of this movement,—that of bringing to the country people good books and the pleasure and benefit to be derived from knowing them. In this work we felt the need of trained service so last August we called to our assistance Miss Knowlton, from the Oshkosh (Wis.) library, a graduate from the Madison Library school, who came to us equipped in library methods and enthusiastically interested in extension work. Following the plan of the Onawa librarian, Miss True, whose inspiring initiative has been so suggestive to others, she has already visited 15 of the 34 rural schools in these four townships, telling stories to the children and explaining the use of the library and its books, and she will not rest content until the remaining 19 schools have been visited in the same way. We are planning to have meetings of the townspeople at the stations in the three towns and talk over with them our plans and ask their help in popularizing the library in their own community. In this we are greatly assisted by Miss Jessie Field, our county superintendent of schools, whose influence is invaluable in the rural districts and who is giving us generously of that influence.

All of this, in commercial terms, is a system of advertising, and we believe it pays to advertise. Especially is it necessary this year in view of the fact that the income from our town tax will be materially reduced by the state law passed by the last assembly and now in effect reducing the tax on moneys and credits, to the uniform rate of 5 mills on the dollar. In comparison with the old system of taxing moneys and cre-

dits, the new valuation is unquestionably a just and equitable measure, and will, in the opinion of some of our statesmen bring an increase of income in a few years by inducing a more honest and conscientious confession to the assessor of our personal fortune. Yet undeniably we will lose in our own town several hundred dollars in our library assessment this and a few ensuing years; hence this is seemingly a critical year for the libraries financially, and the securing of the township tax assumes a larger significance in face of the fear of a decrease in revenue, for while we will make every effort to keep our plans for the growth of our libraries from becoming wholly concerned with finances, yet a sum adequate for the necessary expenses and a surplus sufficient for the purchase of books must be assured us or the libraries cannot remain the institutions we are so justly proud of in our state.

The library is a part and an important one of the great educational system of our country. We do not question the wisdom of establishing rural schools, nor do we hesitate to approve fully the levying of a tax to maintain them. We realize that it is practically impossible for all the children on the farms to come into town for their early educational training, at least, so the country schools are accepted as a necessity. The library supplements and carries on the work of the schools. Indeed we believe it goes a step beyond, for the library is the people's school. Just as the rural schools are essential for the educational interests of any community, so is the establishing of these library centers throughout the country districts as much a necessity for that community's proper growth. In spite of the fact that this age in which we live is one of materialism and commercialism, and we seem in the mad rush for wealth and political honor and personal power to have lost sight of the reality of ideals and the true estimate of things as they are, yet a deeper and closer inspection than a merely superficial observation of humanity and its efforts and ambitions, reveals to us the consoling belief, that after all, there never was such consideration and thoughtful solicitude for the individual's good and happiness as we find at the present time in every class and condition. We are keenly alive and responsive to the old, old, question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" We are taking intelligent care and effecting cures wherever possible, of the physically, mentally, and morally deformed members of society, feeling that the obligation for our own good fortune in being normally sound lays upon us a great responsibility to attempt to lighten the burdens of other lives. We are reforming instead of restraining, consoling instead of condemning, creating instead of destroying,—finding the best solution in these acts of philanthropic endeavor, of the problem of our existence; actuated by the impulse that makes us eager to share the good we have found and made our own, with every other individual of the human race, the wide world over.

A Year of Township Extension at Tipton

BY MISS FLORA MILLIGAN, LIBRARIAN TIPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The township extension work was seriously begun at the Tipton Public Library in February, 1910. Previous to that there had been some effort made to create a sentiment, and we had learned that, among those who were paying fifty cents a year for individual cards, there were a few who were favorable to the plan; in fact, were quite enthusiastic. So we felt encouraged to take active steps toward Township Extension in Center township, the township in which Tipton is located. A committee of three members of the Library Board was appointed to plan the best way in which to proceed. After some time during which a greater effort was made to work up a sentiment by talking with the people who came to the li-

brary, the Library Board invited to meet with them the township trustees of Center township and all those interested in the plan. Only a few responded, but those present were very enthusiastic, and after discussing the matter, the trustees agreed to levy the tax, provided a good proportion of the people were in favor.

This plan was then made to ascertain the will of the people. A petition was made out reading thus:

"We, the undersigned, residents of Center township do hereby petition the trustees of said township to levy a tax not to exceed one mill, in accordance with section 592-a of the supplement to the code of 1907, and to contract with the trustees of the Tipton Public Library for free use of said library for the residents of Center township."

Copies of this petition were sent to about two dozen people throughout the township—people who had made use of the library—and with this petition, a letter asking them to circulate the petitions and secure signers. Many of the people who were to circulate the petitions, had not been in touch with our plans and did not understand them, so only a few made any effort to secure signers, but those few met with excellent success. Of those interviewed, 95 per cent signed.

The chairman of the committee then attended the meeting of the township trustees in April, reported the number of signers, and a levy of one-half mill was made. This amounts to about $300 a year. A contract was then entered into between the Library Board and township trustees. One of the trustees was very anxious that library stations be established in country schools, so that agreement was included in the contract. This we were very willing to do for it was our plan to use the schools as distributing centers, since there are no small towns in the township.

The first school station was established in October, 1910. During the winter, three others were opened, by spring eight were in operation, and now fourteen out of the fifteen schools in the township are receiving books.

It has required a great deal of planning to get these stations established. It is necessary first to work up a sentiment in the neighborhood in which the books are to be placed, and we find the most successful way to do this is to interest the teacher—tell her about the tax and the privileges it gives the people. Tell her of the advantage it will be to her to have the use of the books, especially since she may suggest any books she would like to have to supplement her work. Then ask her to tell the children about the plan, and, as a rule, she finds that they are very eager for the books. If teacher and pupils want them that is usually all that is necessary. Only occasionally do the parents object, and if they do, they are often converted when they realize how much the children enjoy the books and in time we find that they are reading them also. The teachers are most enthusiastic about the plan, and the success of the extension work is largely due to their co-operation.

We were fortunate in having as chairman of the original extension work committee, the County Superintendent of Schools, and his interest in the work and his influence with the teachers was of great assistance. We now have a new superintendent, a young woman, who is no less enthusiastic. In order to get in closer touch with the teachers and pupils, I have gone with her to visit all the schools in the township, talking to the children about the library and about books. As a result of these visits we were able to establish several new stations.

The problem of delivering books to the schools at the beginning of each term has been a perplexing one. We have depended upon some one in the school district to take them out and return them, the teacher usually making arrangements with the director or some one else. But we soon realized that we

were expecting too much of a busy farmer. So the Library Board decided this fall to bear the expense of delivery. We hire a man to deliver the books, sending as many boxes as possible on one load. This plan is still in the experimental stage, and we are not yet able to say how successful it will be.

It has taken a long time to get the Extension work well advertised. Months after the tax had been levied, people would occasionally come to the library and say that they had just learned that they were entitled to the use of the library. So we have tried in every way to make the plan known. Just after the first station was established, we sent a circular letter to every family in the township, telling them of the tax and of our purpose to place books in the country schools. Then after we have established a station, we send another letter to each family in the district announcing that the books are at the school house for their use.

We are now trying to interest two other townships, and will follow much the same plan as before, only we will begin the campaign earlier. The townships are farther from Tipton, and there are only a few people living in these townships who have been using the library so it will take longer to advertise.

We tried a new method of advertising during our county fair. We had a library exhibit in the floral hall at the fair. We had the booth decorated with library posters, a bird chart, some attractive books and for the principal attraction, we had a box of books packed just as we send them to the schools and a sign on the box reading "Sample Rural Library." This attracted a great deal of attention. I staid with the exhibit, explaining the plan and giving out circulars regarding the work. Quite a number of people from the two townships became much interested and it is to these people that we hope to give the petitions which we will want circulated later. The schools will be visited this fall wth a view to getting the children interested and circulars will be given them to give to the parents. We had the extension work presented at the Teachers' Institute by the former superintendent who was an instructor at the Institute, so the teachers can intelligently help with the plans.

We can heartily recommend this work to other libraries. It is decidedly worth while from every standpoint. Even from a selfish standpoint it pays, for it makes the work so much more interesting and stimulating for the librarian, and I am sure the members of the Board feel the same way about it.

The report of rural work, made in June, shows that more than 250 people from the country are using the library, about 150 being registered at the library in Tipton and 100 at the stations. From October till June more than 2500 books were loaned to the 100 people borrowing from the stations.

The increase in the circulation from the main library has been very marked since the Extension work began. There has been an increase of from 200-400 every month over the corresponding month the preceding year and this does not include books loaned from the stations.

There has been an excellent spirit shown by our patrons and by the teachers. There was very little active opposition to the tax. It was necessary to have the tax levied again last April, and the township trustees were not only willing to levy it, but were very enthusiastic about what had been accomplished.

(Editorial Note.—The Annual Report for 1911, from the librarian, Miss Flora Milligan, shows that 1290 volumes were sent to the 14 school stations in Center township during the year.)

"We are as responsible for what we read as for what we do. The best books elevate us into a region of disinterested thought where personal objects fade into insignificance, and the troubles and the anxieties of the world are almost forgotten."—Sir John Lubbock.

Township Extension and the Onawa Library

EXTRACTS FROM A PAPER PREPARED BY P. E. HOLBROOK, TRUSTEE OF THE ONAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE I. L. A. MEETING, 1911.

Branch libraries as established and operated in large cities deal with an entirely different problem from that met by the comparatively small town library which undertakes not only to supply but to stimulate the demands of the even more rural centers of population surrounding it. The patron of a city branch is probably several times in every week within walking distance of the central library and has its shelves available with but little additional trouble. The patron of the rural branch may not be within reach of the central library twice a year and must depend upon the branch entirely for his command of the resources of the central library. The financial support alloted to the rural branch is comparatively small, the service which its limited resources can command is both limited and uncertain and the service which it can give must also be limited, as compared with that offered by the most moderately equipped branch of a city library. The conditions are so different that experience with either can give little help in solving the problems of the other.

The Onawa Public Library has experimented to a limited extent with the problem of rural branches, and is continuing its experiments further. We have had one branch in Castana, a town of 500 people since June 1, 1910, and have three additional branches in Turin, Soldier and Moorhead established in the spring of 1911.

At Castana we receive the proceeds of a one mill tax in the town and two adjoining townships, and at each of the other branches, a one mill tax in the town and the township in which it is situated.

Our contract with each of these branches provides that the town in which the branch is established shall provide in addition to the tax, quarters for the library, while we agree to furnish a specified number of books, light, fuel, supplies, to keep the library open at specified times, and pay the librarian of the branch.

The only branch which has been in operation long enough to furnish a reasonable basis of calculation as to cost and return is that at Castana.

It is not easy to ascertain the cost of a branch library to the central plant. The direct expenses of the branch are of course easily determined, if a proper method of accounting is established, which can be done with little trouble. The determination of the proportion of the cost of central administration which should be charged against the branch may be a matter of more difficulty.

Where reading rooms are a part of the accommodation offered by the central library, it would be unfair to charge a full percentage of total expense to the branches. Where periodicals are furnished at the central library they cannot be charged against the branches, though their use when bound, or even before, may be afforded to the branches. It seems to me that probably the fairest method of apportioning what might be called the overhead expenses, would be upon the basis of circulation. It costs the central library as much to circulate a book through a branch as it does to circulate it over the desk, if not more.

One basis upon which to calculate the actual cost to the central library of a branch, would be to add to the direct expenditure at the branch including the cost of carrying books to it and back, a proportionate part of the expense of administering the central library, of which the branch is, so far as administration is concerned, a part.

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One difficulty which must be kept in mind and provided for arises from the fact that a tax voted by a township in April, 1911, will produce no available funds until April, 1912, when one-half will be paid in, the other half coming in

in October and December, 1912. The result is that either the opening of the branch must be postponed for a year after the missionary work connected with it is done, or the central library must support the branch for a year from the central income and wait a year for its reimbursement.

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A community which taxes itself to establish and maintain a public library has a right to demand that that library be developed to the highest point of efficiency and service to the people of that community, that is possible with the funds provided. There can be no question as to the benefits of branch libraries to the communities in which the branches are established. They gain at once access to ten or twenty times the number of books which they could hope to accumulate by the establishment of independent libraries. The question, so far as the purposes of this paper are concerned, is whether a comparatively small public library can maintain branches in other communities and still give to its home patrons as good service as it could without the branches.

It is evident from the foregoing that the experience of the Onawa Public Library with rural branches has not been sufficient to justify any very definite conclusions as to its effect upon the finances, the administration or the efficiency of the central library.

Our experience so far as it goes, would indicate that under favorable circumstances a branch may return to the parent library more than it takes from it.

(Editorial Note.—Since the above was written the annual report of the Onawa Public Library for the year 1911 has been filed and shows in a convincing way the results of rural extension. The income from taxation from five townships and four small towns which are now supplied with books from the central library in Onawa is $1,365.93, which is more than the income from the Onawa tax levy. The circulation of books for the past two years was as follows: In 1910: Onawa, 20,368, Branch, 3,122, total, 23,490 volumes. In 1911: Onawa, 23,767, Branches 10,470, total 34,237 volumes. The enthusiasm and singleness of purpose with which Miss Ellen I. True, the librarian, has been working out the many problems that arise in the operation of a new and untried law have contributed chiefly to the results already accomplished, but Judge Addison Oliver's name must always be identified with the progressive work of this library, because of his far-seeing, constructive attitude toward library work and his liberal financial support of rural extension, as well as the gift of a generous book endowment fund and the provision of an equal amount with Mr. Carnegie for the erection of the library building.)

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In a letter from Judge Oliver in December, 1911, he writes:

"Our Castana branch circulated in November, 1911, 495 books and our Moorhead branch 693, showing they meet a public want. Our other branches did not do so well but we expect to strengthen them and make them do better the coming year. Our main library circulated in November 2,386 books; the largest monthly circulation in its history and more than four hundred more than November, 1910, which shows that the operation of the branches has not (as was feared by some) impaired the efficiency of the main library.

The present law limits the duration of the library extension contracts to one year. This is too short for even a fair experiment and as no tax is available even in part until April or May of the year succeeding the levy, the library before receiving any compensation for its services, must enter on a new campaign for renewal of the contract. There should be an amendment permitting the contracting parties to fix the duration of the contract, which ought to be at least two, and for some methods five years to afford a fair test, after which it is proposed that the contract may be perpetual unless annulled by consent of the parties. We contemplate eventually, the establishment of a branch library housed in its own building, in every town in the county, served with a library of its own and service of the rural community through or from these branches."

Traveling Picture Collections

The series of twelve colored historical pictures of events in British History, recently added to the Traveling Picture collection of the Library Commission, have proven to be much in demand.

Other collections for exhibit purposes which may be borrowed from the Commission are: Gallery of Masterpieces; Presidents of the U. S.; Selections from the Louvre Gallery; Venice by Hopkinson Smith; The Holy Grail by Edwin A. Abbey; Pictures by American Artists.

The Commission, as far as funds permit, hopes to add pictures to this collection for lending purposes throughout the state, inasmuch as the relation between books and pictures is very close in Traveling Library work. The many requests for these pictures shows that there is considerable demand for them and there seems to be no other center in the state to which residents may turn for borrowing reproductions of great pictures.

During the past year the Commission has had hung in the rooms of the Commission in the State Historical Building, 22 framed pictures loaned them by the Art Department of Charles Scribners' Sons, N. Y. These are originals in oil and water color of pictures painted to illustrate books published by this firm and stories appearing in Scribners' Magazine. This collection consists of four pictures by V. C. Anderson illustrating Page's "Tommy Trot's visit to Santa Claus"; four pictures by W. Glackens illustrating Page's "Santa Claus' Partner"; illustrations by M. Jean McLane for three of Eugene Field's child poems and the same number for Stevenson's poems by the same artist; eight pictures by Frederic Richardson, illustrating Stockton's "Queen's Museum," and the cover design for Stevenson's "Child's Garden of Verses" by Jessie Willcox Smith. This collection will be loaned for exhibit purposes by special arrangement, but the packing and transportation make the cost considerable as the pictures are framed and have glass.

"Everyman's Library" for Traveling Library Use

The issuance of the Dictionary Catalogue of the first 500 volumes of the collection of the standard books of all ages known as "Everyman's Library," makes it possible to have in accessible form an admirable printed list of books for "open shelf" use in Traveling Library work. The Iowa Library Commission has purchased these books in reinforced cloth binding and will use the printed catalog through the courtesy of the publishers, E. P. Dutton & Co., N. Y. The character of these books is such as to appeal to study clubs, students and serious individual readers, hence the books are placed in the open shelf or subject collection, and will be made available throughout the state. The catalogue will be mailed to the custodians of the Iowa Traveling Library. Librarians in the state will be interested to know that Miss Isabella M. Cooper, who was an instructor in the Iowa Summer Library School in 1909 is one of the compilers; the books have useful descriptive notes and evaluations and the public libraries can doubtless secure copies by writing directly to the publishers.

The Century Dictionary

The new edition of the Century Dictionary is prepared simply by dividing the material which appeared in the two supplementary volumes issued about two years ago, and placing this material as a supplement at the end of each volume; thus, there are two places to look for information in every volume. If any library has the supplementary volumes, it would be unnecessary to buy the new set, because it is much more satisfactory to have all supplementary material gathered together in one alphabet at the end of the work, than to have it scattered through the entire work. There are a few changes made in the main text, but these are very few.

Malcolm G. Wyer,
State University Library.

Library News of the State

Albia.—The interior of the public library has recently been rearranged, the walls tinted and a new desk for the librarian provided. Wall shelving has been placed in the children's room and the general reading room, which not only provides more economically and conveniently for the books, but adds much to the appearance.

An interesting collection of Indian relics has recently been presented to the library by J. W. Hageny, who unearthed them on his Monroe county farm.

Bloomfield.—A handsome majority voted in favor of a tax for the establishment and maintenance of a public library at a special election December 30th, consequently Mr. Carnegie's offer of a $10,000 library building will be accepted.

Burlington.—The position of first assistant has been filled by the election of Miss Ethelwyn Manning, of the Cedar Rapids library staff, inasmuch as Miss Rogers did not accept the appointment on the Public Library staff, as mentioned in the last Quarterly.

Carroll.—J. B. Hungerford has presented to the city library the full set of files of the Carroll Herald. They consist of forty-one bound volumes, and date back to 1871. Files of the first three years were destroyed in the big fire. The state library at Des Moines has long wanted the Herald files but the publishers has believed that so valuable a collection of Iowa history, legal publications, family records, etc., ought to be kept at home.

Cedar Falls, State Teachers' College. Miss Mary E. Burton of Benton Harbor, Mich., has recently become a member of the College Library staff. Miss Burton comes to the position from the John Crerar Library, Chicago. Miss Haight resigned from the College Library to take a position in the Orégon Agricultural College Library.

Cedar Rapids.—A series of lectures pertaining to electrical, mechanical, architectural and civic subjects is being given by various business men of Cedar Rapids in the lecture room of the public library. These lectures are free and are being advertised in the shops, lodges, labor unions, etc. The librarian makes accessible all the literature in the library on each of the subjects, when presented.

Cherokee.—The subject of "Library Extension" was included in the program of the Cherokee County Farmers' Institute, February 23d, and Miss Tyler, of the Library Commission, gave the address, calling attention to the provisions of the township extension library law.

Colfax.—The offer of a library building from Mr. Carnegie to cost $6,500.00, which was made some time ago has been renewed and accepted and a centrally located lot has been purchased for the building and work will be begun in the spring.

Fairfield.—Miss S. M. Akin, Librarian, Parsons College Library, has resigned her position owing to ill health. It is hoped that with the year's rest she may resume her position as she has made a valued place for the library and for herself in college life.

Independence.—The story hour has been inaugurated very successfully by the librarian, Miss Markham, this winter and has stimulated the reading of better books. The story of "Rusten" was given at the first story hour.

Indianola.—The interior of the public library has been improved by retinting the walls, substituting new and improved lights and redressing the furniture.

Keokuk.—The opening of the reading room of the public library on Sunday afternoon has proven to be a popular movement and was stimulated largely by the request which came from some of the young men in the employ of the water power company, and one of the engineering firms. One of the smaller rooms of the library is to be set aside

for a reading room for men where smoking will be allowed. The library board has just let the contract for the retinting of the walls throughout the library.

Mason City.—The library of Memorial University has been turned over to the Public Library as the University has been discontinued. The collection consists of about 3,500 volumes, and is especially strong in history, economics and literature. Inasmuch as the High School is using the building the library is being conducted as a Branch School Library this year.

Missouri Valley.—The new library building the gift of Mr. Andrew Cornegie, was opened with dedicatory exercises January 2nd. The chief address was given by J. H. Beveridge, Superintendent of the Council Bluffs schools. Mr. Carnegie gave $10,000 and an additional $5,000.00 was subscribed by citizens.

A series of talks have been arranged by Supt. L. I. Read one of the library trustees, by various local speakers and already the library lecture room has become an attractive center, each Friday afternoon or evening. Miss Tyler, of the Library Commission, gave an address there on "The Library and the Social Conscience" February 22.

Mitchell.—A Library Association has been formed and a Reading Room opened in a centrally located first floor room, for which the furniture and periodicals have been donated. The Woman's Club will assist the Association and the Reading Room will be open two days each week. The State Traveling Library is being used.

Nevada.—The celebration of the 80th birthday of W. P. Payne was observed December 22nd by a gathering of his friends and neighbors; and those who have been closely associated with him in the work of the public library in Nevada felt that they had a special share in it. He has been the only president of the Nevada Public Library Board since its organization in 1894.

New Hampton.—An exhibit of water color pictures by the Norwegian artist, Gilbert Sether, was held in the Public Library recently, through the interest of his friend, Mr. Grimsby, one of the leading citizens of New Hampton.

Osage.—The resignation of the librarian, Miss Etta Westlake, has been accepted by the library trustees after five years of capable service. She is succeeded by Miss Rena Gray.

Ottumwa.—An interesting exhibit of pictures of the U. S. Forestry service was shown in the public library in January and proved very popular. This exhibit consists of 44 large photographs mounted on strips of cloth by which they are suspended and are carefully labeled. They were secured from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, D. C.

Seymour.—A special election was held Feb. 20th to vote on the question of maintaining a free public library by taxation, and the measure was lost by five votes. It was expected that a favorable vote would result which would make the acceptance of a Carnegie building possible.

Sioux City.—Effective use was recently made of the Victrola in connection with the children's story hour, by the children's librarian, Miss O'Connor, with the story of "Tannhauser," which Miss O'Connor adapted for telling to the children. The "Pilgram's Chorus" record was used in connection with the story of the pilgrimage to Rome and the records of "Elizabeth's Prayer" and "The Sweet Sublime Evening Star" were also used, making a most attractive and artistic hour.

Sioux City, Morningside College.—Miss Blanche Watts, librarian, has resigned to accept a position on the staff of the Kentucky Library Commission. Miss Watts was a student at the Iowa Summer Library School in 1908 and attended the N. Y. State Library School, 1909-10.

Spencer.—The public library received the gift last summer of several pieces of statuary from Miss Anna Felt of Ga-

lena, Ill., who was at that time in Rome. Recently pedestals have been provided for them by Miss Felt and Mr. B. F. Felt, and on the evening of January 31st the works of art were formally presented to the library by Miss Felt who was visiting her brother in Spencer. Response on behalf of the Library Board was made by Prof. A. H. Avery. "The First Lesson" by Caccarelli, a living Italian sculptor, is particularly suited to the children's room and is greatly enjoyed by the children. Few small libraries have had the good fortune to receive such a choice beginning for an art collection.

At the Clay County Farmers' Institute the following day, Miss Tyler, of the Library Commission, spoke on "Rural Extension of Library Service."

One of the founders of the Spencer Public Library and the President of the Board for several years, Mrs. Ackley Hubbard, died at her home in Minneapolis, February 16th. She was one of the pioneers in library work in Iowa, when to support a library was a struggle, but with enthusiasm and devotion the early workers such as Mrs. Hubbard, laid the foundations well.

Storm Lake.—Recently a beautiful colored copy of Reynold's "Age of Innocence" was presented to the children's room of the Public Library by a Girls' Club, which is under the direction of the librarian, Miss Walpole. The picture has proven a great delight to the children who visit the room.

Washington.—A handsome mahogany colonial clock has been presented to the Chilcote Public Library by the Fortnightly Club.

A Saturday Story Hour has been inaugurated by Miss Denny, the librarian, with the cooperation of Miss Stichter, as a part of the work with the children.

Woodbine.—The public-spirited business men of Woodbine contribute to the reading room of the public library subscriptions to about seventy standard magazines, in addition to contributions of books.

Some Reminiscences

Miss Hannah M. Babb, a charter member of the State Library Association as librarian of the Indianola Public Library, has served that institution with loving devotion and singleness of purpose for many years. She has had the privilege of seeing the growth from small beginnings, wherein the strictest economy was necessary and her resourcefulness and ingenuity were often taxed to provide the best for the library with the funds available. The present modern building and equipment and the prosperity of the library are causes of justifiable pride on the part of Miss Babb. Recently, Miss Babb spoke before the Indianola Woman's Club and said in part:

"For almost three decades I have worked within the walls, of our Public Library,—have watched it grow from about five hundred to over six thousand volumes. Almost every volume means something to me. Many of the ladies of the Woman's Club came from the primary room to the library and now are sending their children for books to read. It makes me feel somewhat ancient to say that.

* * * * *

An index of the books and magazines was our first need. I did not then know of Poole's index. If I had, we could not have gotten it. I asked our committee for cards to make an index and some kind of a case to keep them in. The answer was, "We have nothing to get it with and besides you are doing well enough." At last I told them, "The library is not doing half it should with the books it has. We must have an index of all our books."

I made the smaller cards answer our needs and was soon at work. When the index was completed I felt that nothing was lost. All in the library was available in a short time. When that case was full another was added without demur until we had six cases full of cards. I studied the Perkins classification and arranged the books on the shelves as it

directed. Having a typewriter I could use I made a catalogue on loose leaves and had them bound as a book. That made the first catalogue of our library. It is now laid aside as a relic.

When the law was passed providing that nine trustees should have charge of the public libraries, the Indianola library passed from the city council to the care of nine trustees. They wanted that we should change the classification from the Perkins to what was known as the Dewey system. Having spent a day in the model library at the Chicago World's fair and having there seen the superiority of the Dewey classification I was glad to make the change. It was not until 1910 that we were able to point with pride to the long wished for cabinets. A small one for the classed list and a dictionary catalogue that has every book by title, author and subject.

Some Relations of Library Work to Rural Betterment.

(Extracts from a paper in "New York Libraries," January, 1910.)

By L. H. Bailey, Director of the New York State College of Agriculture.

My approach to this subject is from the country life and agricultural side rather than from the library side.

The subject is important because of its own status, something like one-third of all our people living on the farms and about one-half in the country. It is also important because of the influence of rural civilization on urban civilization. Cities have not yet been able to sustain and perpetuate themselves; they must draw from the rural side. The subject is important also because the country people constitute the balance force or middle wheel of society, lying between the working men on the one hand and the capitalists on the other. Both poles of our civilization tend to go violently to the extreme, whereas the persons who are anchored in the land exercise a conservative and controlling force.

We are to approach this rural problem not as missionaries or from the point of view of philanthropy or charity, or with the expectation that our efforts should constitute an "uplift." We must approach the question rationally, for the purpose of understanding it and taking it up as a piece of constructive public work, thinking of it as a contribution to human welfare in general. So far as possible, we should work through the resident and native forces rather than to impinge ourselves on the situation from without. The whole effect of the enterprise must be to help the people to help themselves.

But working alone, however effectively the work may be done, the libraries cannot go far toward solving the rural problem. They must tie themselves up with institutions that are engaged in developing the agricultural and rural conditions. There are very many agencies and institutions that in one way or another are contributing to a better country life, but they are too scattered and are working too independently and remotely from each other to enable them to accomplish the results to which their efforts entitle them. There is need of more united effort.

I am sure that librarians must get away from their bondage to books if they are going to help the rural situation (I said that I was not speaking from the librarian's point of view). Books are not the only means of developing the reading habit; and with the great majority of people they are not the first means to be used.

I mean that librarians must escape from their formal library methods and must not look on libraries as museums. I take it that a library is not merely a place where books are kept for persons to read if they choose to read them. The library must propagate its ideas and its work as actively as any other institution or organization.

If the reading habit is to be developed in country districts, the rural li-

brary should have a reading room which would be in the nature of a social center. The library should organize clubs until it becomes an organism with its organs intrenched in a community and all of them responsive and alive. If the rural library is to be an educational institution, as I think it should, it must have a progressive, constructive and dynamic program. We have not yet begun to develop a public imagination on the scope and possibilities of library work.

The rural library must work with live colleges of agriculture. It cannot reach the problem unless it does. It should be a distributing agency or center for the publications of the colleges and experiment stations and for other institutions that stand for agricultural development, as well as for the distribution of publishers' books and periodicals. I can picture to myself a rural library so alert as to give advice to its constituency as to where and how it may get into touch with the new methods and discoveries. A very simple series of short lectures or talks throughout the community would tend enormously to develop the reading habit. It would be easy to secure officers from colleges of agriculture and other institutions to give talks on specific rural subjects with the particular aim of awakening an interest to read the best articles and books on the subject.

If there were effective rural reading centers, these centers would exert a very marked influence in suggesting the kind of literary treatment that should be given scientific publications to make them adaptable to the needs of the people. If rural libraries were active and dynamic reading centers, they would in my estimation soon cause the revolution of experiment station literature. This literature needs the test of actual reading under wise guidance. I am willing to go further and to say that no single agency could so reshape rural literature in general and of all kinds, as an active system of organized rural reading work with a strong extension motive.

IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Miss Grace D. Rose, President, Davenport.

Miss Helen M. Lee, Vice-President, Des Moines.

Mr. W. P. Payne, Honorary President, Nevada.

Mr. L. L. Dickerson, Secretary, Grinnell.

Miss Sarah Palmer, Registrar, Red Oak.

Mr. N. R. Parvin, Treasurer, Cedar Rapids.

The spring meetings of the six Districts of the Iowa Library Association have been arranged for as follows:

Northwest District, at Storm Lake, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Horton, chairman; Middle-west District, at Jefferson, Miss Sabra L. Nason, chairman; Southwest District, at Clarida, Miss Sara Sheppard, chairman; Northeast District, at New Hampton, Miss Grace Worner, chairman; Middle-east District, at Tipton, Miss Helen McRaith, chairman; Southeast District, at Washington, Mrs. Florence McKibben, chairman.

The dates will be in April and May, and these are being arranged by the President, Miss Rose, who hopes to attend all of these meetings. Notices will be sent out soon by the District Chairmen to each librarian in her District, and meantime every librarian should bring the matter to the attention of the library trustees and arrange for the attendance of more than one representative from each library if possible. The informal discussion of practical topics at these small gatherings have proven to be of the greatest interest and profit to both librarians and trustees.

The Treasurer of the State Association, Mr. N. R. Parvin, is making an active campaign to increase the membership of the Association, and in this way enhance the revenues of the organization. Every member should cooperate with him in this movement by securing at least one new member, and forwarding the name and the membership fee of $1.00 to Mr. N. R. Parvin, Iowa Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids.